

**R. Freeman Butts.**  
**THE EDUCATION OF THE**  
**WEST: A FORMATIVE**  
**CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY**  
**OF CIVILIZATION.**  
 New York:  
 McGraw-Hill, 1973.  
 631 pp. \$10.95.

A new book by Professor Butts rates more than passing interest, for no other reason than his popular *A Cultural History of Western Education* has long been a mainstay among history of education textbooks. Declaring his latest effort a successor rather than a revision of his earlier work, he does not waver in the belief that educational history must be viewed in the context of general history. Calling his approach that of civilization building, Professor Butts offers a voluminous study that, while anchored in European and American education, gives greater attention to educational developments in heretofore neglected areas: pre-Greco cultures; Latin America; and Africa. The net result is a praiseworthy attempt to expand the historical treatment of learning in the West and to bring into play the new research findings of social scientists and others.

So ably written and impressive in range is Butts' magnum opus that at first glance the book appears to be without serious flaws. A closer look reveals the contrary. The reader soon discovers that the author is guilty of "encyclopedism," of laying before the reader every conceivable educational and cultural happening that has transpired since the dawn of civilization. Were not Professor Butts' pen so facile, he might be suspected of impersonating Isidore of Seville. This is to point out that despite moments of superior scholarship, the overall effect of the book is disappointing. Quite simply the author fails, as he did in

his earlier work, to establish a meaningful link between social and educational history. Too often, social events are paraded before the reader where they stand in not so splendid isolation to educational developments. The upshot is that Butts has written not one but two books: a survey of general history and one of organized education.

To his credit, the author undertook an almost impossible task: simultaneously considering the history of civilization and learning in the West in comprehensive fashion. That he failed to effect the coup is less a stain on his not inconsiderable abilities than on the assignment confronting him. Professor Butts' book is certainly deserving of respect; whether it is deserving of high praise awaits a larger forum.

*Roger Magnuson*  
 McGill University

**Susanne Hoerber Rudolph and**  
**Lloyd I. Rudolph, eds.**  
**EDUCATION AND POLITICS**  
**IN INDIA: STUDIES IN**  
**ORGANIZATION, SOCIETY**  
**AND POLICY.**  
 Cambridge:  
 Harvard University Press,  
 1972. 470 pp. \$20.00.

In many ways this is a praiseworthy and valuable book. It combines in a single volume the scholarly endeavors of several American and Indian social scientists; and, with only minor exceptions, the contributions are of high quality and direct relevance to the theme of education and politics. In other ways, which I shall attempt to demonstrate as well, it is a disappointment.

The dual purpose of the work is, first, "to identify critical problems in the relationship between politics and education generally and to explore concepts and methods for their investigation" and, sec-